

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10-12, and 14 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 7-8, 10-12, and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakai et al. (Published U.S. application 2003/0012550). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakai in view of Lenihan et al. (U.S. Patent 6,169,843). Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakai in view of Lenihan and Nakatani et al. (U.S. Patent 6,118,924).

The present claims now recite "said Bridge Clip AV stream consisting of a preset portion of a first AV stream and a preset portion of a second AV stream without changes to the preset portion of the first AV stream and the preset portion of the second AV stream." (Claims 1, 7-8, 10-12, and 14) As shown in Figure 37, the Bridge Clip consists of portions of clip 1 and clip 2. Importantly, the portions in the Bridge Clip are unchanged from clip 1 and clip 2. For example, the portions have not been edited with a transitional special effect such as a wipe. Also, the portions in the Bridge Clip are not removed/erased/deleted from clip 1 and clip 2.

By contrast and as noted by the Examiner, Sakai discloses the use of a transition to achieve a special effect (such as a fade-in, fade-out, or wipe) at the edit point where clips are combined. (Office Action page 2). To achieve these transitions, Sakai actually edits (changes) the clip data at the edit point and records the combined (and changed) AV stream. By contrast, the present claims clearly state the clip data is not changed.

Moreover, Sakai uses these transitions to show "scene changes." Whereas, the present invention is not directed to "scene changes," but is rather directed to bridging clip portions which, for example, are recorded so far apart on the surface of a disc that the tracking cannot jump between them without causing a discontinuity in playback. Sakai is not concerned with the problem of jumping between sequential clips which are not recorded sequentially on a disc.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Sakai, Lenihan, and Nakatani (alone or in combination) fails to meet all of the recited limitations, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

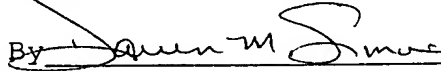
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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